GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
STUDY ON KHESARI DAL
Gandhi Smt. Maneka;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the National Institute of Nutrition to test a kind of Pulse `Lokhodi` or Khesari Dal and find out its effects on human health;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether many States are capable of producing sufficient quantity of this kind of pulse which can help in cutting down imports of pulse;and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes,Sir.The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad proposes to conduct a study using goats as animal model had submitted the proposal for approval of the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). CPCSEA has now approved the proposal to conduct the study.

(c) & (d): Khesari dal is cultivated in various parts of the country.The production of Khesari dal (Lathyrus sativus) in the country during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07 was as under:-

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
2002-03	3.54
2003-04	4.92
2004-05	3.04
2005-06	3.45
2006-07	3.83

The production of Khesari dal in the country may not be sufficient to bridge the gap between demand and domestic production of pulses as the current production of khesari dal is far less than the total imports of pulses.